

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for recording an image signal of an arbitrary image ~~including a still picture and a moving picture on a prescribed recording medium~~, comprising:

image generating means for generating an image signal of the arbitrary image;

registration image data input means for inputting a registration image associated with input legitimacy-check information of the registration image;

~~related information storing means for storing registration information of a registration image containing information about a copyright of the arbitrary image and related information relating to the registration image, wherein the stored information includes stored legitimacy-check information;~~

registration image data storing means for storing image data of the registration image;

image combining control means for reading out the registration image data, generating a registration image signal based on the registration image data ~~by referring to the related information~~, and generating a combined image signal by combining the registration image signal with the image signal of the arbitrary image; and

combined image output means for outputting the combined image signal to an arbitrary device including the prescribed recording medium,

wherein the combined image output means does not output the combined image signal if the input legitimacy-check information does not coincide with the stored legitimacy-check information.

2. (Original) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the registration image data storing means is detachable, and wherein the combined image output means does not record the combined image signal on the prescribed recording medium if the registration image data does not exist in the registration image data storing means.

3. (Original) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generating means is imaging means for producing an image by shooting a prescribed object and converting it into an image signal.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the related information storing means is a nonvolatile memory.

6. (Original) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising setting input means for inputting prescribed setting information including a setting of the registration image and a setting relating to display of the registration image, and for storing the setting information in the related information storing means.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for an image recording apparatus that records an image signal of an arbitrary image including a still picture and a moving picture on a prescribed recording medium, comprising the steps of:

registering a registration image containing information corresponding to the arbitrary image;

generating first legitimacy-check information based on image data of the registration image;

~~storing, in advance, registration information of a registration image containing information about a copyright of the arbitrary image, related information relating to the~~

~~registration image, and said first legitimacy-check information image data of the registration image;~~
generating an image signal of the arbitrary image;
~~reading out the inputting registration image data corresponding to said registration~~
~~image;~~
generating a registration image signal based on the registration image data ~~by referring to~~
~~the related information;~~
generating second legitimacy-check information based on the inputted registration image data;
generating a combined image signal by combining the registration image signal with the
image signal of the arbitrary image; and
~~recording outputting the combined image signal to an arbitrary device including on the~~
prescribed recording medium only if the second legitimacy-check information coincides with
the first legitimacy-check information.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (New) The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the related information further including setting information of the registration image for display.

15. (New) The image recording method according to claim 12, wherein, in the storing step, setting information of the registration image used for display is stored along with the legitimacy-check information.